Electronic meters

2456. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new electronic meter installed by power companies are manipulated by companies in their favour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any comparative study has been done regarding increase in power bills after installation of electronic meter; and

(d) if so, what are findings, give details?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Section 55 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that no licensee shall supply electricity exept through installation of a correct meter in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Further, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are required to specify an Electricity Supply Code under section 50 of the Act. Contravention of regulations is a punishable offence as per the provisions of the Act.

Electronic meters read all the electricity consumption including the electricity consumed by a zero watt bulb (6 to 12 watts). These meters record the consumption of the electronic gadgets even when they are in stand by mode while the mechanical meters are unable to record this consumption because of their higher tolerance limit. Mechanical meters tend to get slower with the passage of time because of wear and tear in the measuring components.

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has informed that there have been consumers' complaints regarding inaccurate readings after installation of Electronic meters. The DERC and also the Distribution Companies have separately conducted meter-testing drives. The latest drive conducted by the Distribution Companies was in association with Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Power, Government of India. The results from this drive show that 515 meters have been tested in the presence of CPRI in the areas of BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. and BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (till mid June 2005) and all meters were found to be within limits. As regards the area of North Delhi Power Ltd., 45 meters have been tested till the end of

July 2005 and all meters were found to be within limits excepting one which was found to be slow.

Rates of power for domestic use by SEBs

2457. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of power for domestic use under various Electricity Boards in the States/UTs at present;

(b) the States/UTs where the power supply is in private hands and since when;

(c) whether before privatization of distribution of power in Delhi, it was projected that the Trancos would eliminate the transmission and distribution losses and the benefits would pall on to the consumers; and

(d) to what extent these loses have been brought down in Delhi ever since privatization hike in power tariff in Delhi after privatization and reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The rates of electricity for domestic consumers in various States [as compiled by the Central Electricity Authority] are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Private distribution companies have already been functioning over the years in Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat, in Kolkata and Dishergarh in West Bengal, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai in Maharashtra and Munnar in Kerala.

The State Government of Orissa and Government of NCT of Delhi have privatized distribution in 1999 and July, 2002 respectively.

(c) and (d) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that as part of the privatization, the distribution companies are required to reduce Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) Losses over a period of 5 years. Details of the targets fixed and achieved are tabulated as under: